

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

As the number of newspaper chains in this country has dropped dramatically over the past 15-20 years, coverage of news events has grown steadily worse. It has become increasingly difficult to find a newspaper that will publish its own independent views. Even their endorsement of national political candidates is dictated to by the owners of the newspaper chain.

As the ownership of radio broadcasting systems has dwindled to just a couple, it is almost impossible to find local news now. The same programs and the same people are heard from one end of the country to the other (not, incidentally, about 99.9% of talk shows coming from an extreme far right point of view, even though that does not reflect the make up of our citizens' views).

For this country to survive as a democracy, we MUST be able to read, to listen to, and to watch a variety of opinions and viewpoints. Please don't allow any more consolidation of media than what has already taken place! I sincerely believe that the future of this country depends on this.